

02/01/2006

FROM: Robert J. Tovsrud, N6OI
TO: FCC

RE: Comment on WT Docket 05-535

Attn: FCC

I am filing this comment in opposition to the recommended elimination of the 5 WPM Morse Code requirement to obtain a general class license.

When the amateur radio service was established in approximately 1933 the FCC established "Five Principles of the Amateur Radio Service". I will quote the first one:

"1. Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communication."

Emphasis is placed on the "with respect to providing emergency communication".

Morse code exceeds the capabilities of all other modes of delivering a successful when operating conditions are difficult and/or band conditions are marginal. To not even require a minimal requirement of 5WPM Morse Code to operate on high frequency is in direct contradiction with the First of the five principles with respect to emergency communication.

Most aspiring amateur radio operators are against having to pass any Morse code test simply because they do not want to spend the time and effort to do it. That was certainly my case. I still do not regularly use Morse Code, but under difficult operating conditions in emergency situations I think I could successfully receive and/or transmit a message.

Sincerely,

Robert J Tovsrud, N6OI